

ABSTRACT

~~Improvements Relating To Document Transmission Techniques~~

A method of delivering a digital document to an intended recipient at a printout station, such as a fax machine. The method comprises receiving and securely retaining a transmitted document and a transmitted independently verifiable data record such as a digital certificate of the intended recipient at the printout station. A first token, such as a public key, of the intended recipient is obtained, usually from the transmitted information. The method includes requesting proof of the intended recipient's identity at the receiving fax machine using data in the digital certificate of the intended recipient and releasing the document when the intended recipient has proved their identity by use of a second token, such as a private key, that is uniquely related to the first token. The private key may be provided on a portable smart card. Also envelope data encryption techniques may be used to add security to the transmission of the document.

(Figure 1)